

## Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3100

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSSAG PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 10139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB

SUBJ: ENCOURAGING FANK SELF-RELIANCE IN PREPARATION  
FOR DRY SEASON

1. FANK'S GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT  
KOMPONG CHAM AND ON ROUTE 4 ARE ENCOURAGING.

2. WE ARE TRYING BY VARIOUS DEVICES TO RECOGNIZE THIS  
PROGRESS. COMUSSAG GENERAL VOGT HAS CONGRATULATED  
MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ IN A PERSONAL CABLE; HIS  
FAREWELL CALL HERE SEPTEMBER 25/16 ON THE HIGH POLITICAL  
COUNCIL WILL GIVE A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR ENCOURAGE-  
MENT. I CONGRATULATED LON NOL FORMALLY FOR KOMPONG  
CHAM ON SEPTEMBER 14. I AM GIVING SOSTHENE A SORT  
OF TESTIMONIAL DINNER WITH ALL SENIOR U.S. MILITARY  
AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (NOW DELAYED BY HIS ILLNESS TO  
SEPTEMBER 27) TO COMMEMORATE HIS ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND  
AS CHIEF OF STAFF 16 SEPTEMBER 1972. AND OF COURSE WE  
CONTINUE OUR DAILY EFFORTS TO ENERGIZE THE KHMER.

3. BUT THE CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT OF MY MILITARY  
ASSOCIATES IS THAT EVEN IF IT CONTINUES TO FIGHT  
AT ITS PRESENT, SOMEWHAT IMPROVED LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS,  
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AND EVEN IF ITS PRESENT BETTER MORALE HOLDS, THE FANK  
WILL NEED GREATER MOBILITY AND GREATER FIREPOWER TO  
SURVIVE THE DRY SEASON. AS CHMEDTC HAS RECOMMENDED  
IN A SEPARATE AND MORE DETAILED MESSAGE TO CINCPAC,

WE BELIEVE THE FANK SHOULD HAVE:

(A) THREE ADDITIONAL ARMORED CAVALRY TROOPS TO FILL  
OUT FANK'S MOBILE STRIKE FORCES;

(B) TWO DIVISION BASES INCLUDING TWO 155 MM ARTILLERY  
BATTERIES TO BRING THE THIRD AND FIRST DIVISIONS UP TO FULL  
POWER;

(C) ADDITIONAL RIVERINE CRAFT CONSISTING OF TWO LCM-8S,  
TWO ATC'S, TWO ASPB'S AND TWO MONITORS, TO HELP ASSURE CONTROL  
OF THE MEKONG FROM THE VIETNAMESE BORDER TO KOMPONG CHAM;

(D) FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTRALS AN/MRC-108 TO IMPROVE  
COORDINATION.

THE KHMER HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ABSORB AND USE THESE  
ITEMS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THE EXTRAORDINARY BUDGETARY EFFORT  
WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY MADE TO KEEP THE  
FANK IN AMMUNITION, AND ARE AWARE OF THE PREJUDICE  
TO OTHER, HIGH-PRIORITY MAP PROGRAMS.

5. BUT NOW THAT FANK IS ON THE REBOUND AN READY  
TO PUT SOME GRIT INTO THE PREPARATONS FOR WHAT BY  
ANYONE'S ACCOUNT WILL BE A VERY HARSH DRY SEASON,  
THE INVESTMENT WOULD HAVE A HIGH PAYOUT. IT COULD  
BE THE MARGIN BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE.  
ENDERS

SECRET

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